

CLAIMS

1-99. (Canceled).

100. (Currently amended) A combination for controlling airflow between an air hose and an inflatable thermal blanket device, comprising:

an end of the air hose having a diameter;

at least one inlet port in the inflatable thermal blanket device for being coupled with the end of the air hose;

at least one planar hose card attached to the inflatable thermal blanket, the planar hose card including an aperture aligned with an inlet port for receiving and supporting the end of the air hose when the end is coupled with the inlet port;

a valve with a flap having a diameter substantially the same as the end diameter and disposed in the air hose near the end for opening to enable airflow out of the end when the end is coupled with the aperture and the inlet port; and

means near the end for opening the flap in response to the aperture and the inlet port coupling with the end;

~~the means including a hinge lever to cooperate with the inlet port to prevent the flap from blocking the flow of air when the end is coupled with the inlet port~~

the means including a moveable hinge lever connected to the flap which moves from a first position away from the end to a second position against the end in response to the end being coupled with the aperture and the inlet port;

the flap being prevented from blocking the flow of air when the hinge lever is in the second position.

101. (Currently amended) The combination of claim 100, ~~the means~~ further including a first magnet in the air hose, and a second magnet on the flap, wherein the first magnet cooperates with the second magnet to enable the flap to block the flow of air when the end is not coupled with the aperture and the inlet port.

102-104. (Withdrawn)

105. (Currently amended) A combination for controlling airflow between an air hose and an inflatable thermal blanket device, comprising:

an end of the air hose having a diameter;

at least one inlet port in the inflatable thermal blanket device for being coupled with the end of the air hose;

at least one planar hose card attached to the inflatable thermal blanket, the planar hose card including an aperture aligned with an inlet port for receiving and supporting the end of the air hose when the end is coupled with the inlet port;

a valve with a flap having a diameter substantially the same as the end diameter disposed in the air hose near the end for opening to enable airflow out of the end when the end is coupled with the aperture in the hose card and the inlet port; and

means near the end for opening the flap in response to the inlet port coupling with the aperture and the end;

the means including a first magnet in the air hose, and a second magnet on the flap, wherein the first magnet cooperates with the second magnet to enable the flap to block the flow of air when the end is not coupled with the aperture and the inlet port.

106. (Currently amended) A method for controlling air flow in a system including an inflatable thermal blanket device, an air hose having two ends, at least one inlet port in the inflatable thermal device for receiving one end of the air hose, at least one planar hose card attached to the inflatable thermal blanket, the planar hose card including an aperture aligned with an inlet port for receiving and supporting the end of the air hose when the end is coupled with the inlet port, a flap in the air hose near the one end, and a hinge lever in the air hose near the one end, the hinge lever attached to the flap, the method comprising:

inserting the one end through the aperture in the planar hose card;
coupling the one end with the inlet port;
moving the hinge lever against the air hose in response to coupling;
moving the flap in response to movement of the hinge lever coupling in order to permit an airflow out of the one end;
the hinge lever cooperating with the inlet port to prevent the flap from blocking airflow;
operating the inflatable thermal device in response to the airflow;
decoupling the one end from the aperture and the inlet port; and,
in response to decoupling, moving the hinge lever away from the air hose;
the flap being moved to block airflow through the one end in response to the hinge lever moving away from the air hose.

107. (Currently amended) The method of claim 106, in which the system also has a first magnet in the air hose and a second magnet on the flap, the method further including the first magnet cooperating with the second magnet to enable the flap to block the flow of air when the end is decoupled from the aperture and the inlet port.

108-110. (Withdrawn)

111. (Currently amended) A method for controlling air flow in a system including an inflatable thermal blanket device, an air hose having two ends, at least one inlet port in the inflatable thermal device for receiving one end of the air hose, at least one planar hose card attached to the inflatable thermal blanket, the planar hose card including an aperture aligned with an inlet port for receiving and supporting the end of the air hose when the end is coupled with the inlet port, the air hose including a flap near the one end, a first magnet in the air hose and a second magnet on the flap, the method comprising:

coupling the one end with the aperture in the planar hose card and the inlet port;

moving the flap in response to coupling in order to permit an airflow out of the one end;

operating the inflatable thermal device in response to the airflow;

decoupling the one end from the inlet port and the aperture; and,

in response to decoupling, moving the flap to block airflow through the one end;

the first magnet cooperating with the second magnet to retain the flap in a position in the one end at which the flap blocks airflow through the one end.